



Montgomery County RainScapes Rewards Rebate Tree Canopy



Requirements and Important Information

The steps to get a rebate for your RainScapes installation are listed below. The rebate check will be issued by the Department of Finance.

All decisions regarding eligibility of applications and processing of applications are final and are at the sole discretion of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Before you begin your project	
	When planning your project, ensure that it follows the design guidelines and criteria included within the application. This is important in order to be eligible for rebates.
	Make sure you have written approval from the RainScapes Rewards Planner before you begin installation or construction. Projects that are partially or completely finished before approval will not qualify for rebates. Allow three weeks for processing and wait to receive application approval from the Department of Environmental Protection. Contact us at RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 311 if you have not received a response three weeks after you submitted an application.
	You will be contacted by the Department of Environmental Protection to schedule the mandatory, preliminary site inspection if your application is approved
	Projects must be installed within six months of the preliminary inspection date.
	Compile all necessary documentation outlined in the application. Submit the application, photos, and required documentation. The applicant is responsible for obtaining any necessary permits.
	Provide a diagram or photos with the proposed location of trees marked. Take a “before” photo of the proposed project area (up to six photos may be submitted. Please compress photos to reduce file size). If you cannot take pictures at this time, you may skip the upload and email the photos to RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov . Please indicate your Application ID in the email.
	For tree plantings, you must contact MISS UTILITY and have the project area marked prior to site inspection.
	If you live in an HOA community, provide a letter or other documentation showing



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	HOA approval of project.
Upon completion of your project	
	Contact the Department of Environmental Protection at RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov to schedule a mandatory final inspection. Inspections will generally be scheduled within 10 business days. At the final inspection, correct installation of the project will be verified, and the project area will be photographed.
	Please remember to submit, prior to final inspection, itemized receipts, contractor bills and/or invoices for all project costs. Invoices/billing documentation must be submitted for the entire rebate amount requested. Photocopies are acceptable. Email them to RainScapes.application@montgomerycountymd.gov . Please indicate your Application ID in the email. Without this information, the rebates cannot be processed.
	If all requirements are met, the rebate will be approved, and a check will be issued by the County Department of Finance within three to six weeks.



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Design Criteria and Guidelines for Project Eligibility

rev. 1/10, 7/10

*** These guidelines and criteria will be periodically updated to ensure currency with the latest technical information and best practices – please verify that you have the latest version! ***

Tree Canopy

NOTE: Trees must be planted during the fall, winter and spring; after September 15th and before April 30th

- **Planting Specifications:**

- Ask your nurseryman/landscaper for advice on the best tree for your site
- Use planting instructions per nursery guarantee/warranty. If no instructions are provided, consult with RainScapes for appropriate tree planting guidance.

- **Tree(s) must be not smaller than:**

- A #7 pot
- 8' to 12' tall
- minimum 1" caliper
- Put 3" to 4" of mulch around tree, extending at least 2' from trunk, preferably to the outer extent of the branches
- Do not pile mulch on the tree trunk
- Plant trees so that no more than 1/8 of the root ball is above existing grade level
- Stake trees for the first six months, and then remove stakes

- **Location Priorities:**

- Eligibility for shade tree (tree canopy trees), planting rebates are available for all watersheds but, if funding is limited, projects in the following targeted areas will receive priority for receiving funds:
 - Watersheds targeted through DEPs restoration programs: Rock Creek, Little Falls, the Anacostia, Cabin John, Watts Branch, Muddy Branch, Patuxent
- Trees must be planted on private property, not within the public right-of-way. (Other programs exist to address this need; email RainScapes for more information.)
- Plant trees at least 15' to 20' away from structures
- Priority will be given to trees planted to address the following conditions:
 - Shading of existing impervious surfaces such as driveways, sidewalks, roads and roofs, patios
 - Shading of buildings and A/C units from afternoon sun
 - Erosion control
 - Northwesterly wind blocks
 - Lots that lack adequate canopy
- Do not use Gator bags in areas with high vole or rabbit populations
- Protect the trunk! Once trees are installed, there should be no weed whacking around trees



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- Tree must be tarped (covered) for transportation
- Tree guard(s) must be used for deer protection (from rubbing of stem) in areas with high deer browse problems

The following species of trees will be considered at this time:
(DEP approval may be requested for others)

- American elm (Valley Forge or Princeton) (*Ulmus americana*)
- American sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
- American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
- black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*)
- black oak (*Quercus velutina*)
- common baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*)
- common honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*)
- Kentucky coffeetree (*Gymnocladus dioica*)
- littleleaf linden (*Tilia cordata*)
- northern red oak (*Quercus rubra*)
- red maple (*Acer rubrum*)
- scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*)
- shingle oak (*Quercus imbricaria*)
- silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*)
- swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*)
- willow oak (*Quercus phellos*)
- sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*)
- tulip-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)
- yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava* Sol. (*Aesculus octandra* Marsh.))
- white oak (*Quercus alba*)

The following trees will be considered at this time but are not commonly found at local nurseries in large sizes:

- American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
- bigtooth aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)
- bur oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)
- hickories, mockernut or pignut (*Carya* sp.)
- overcup oak (*Quercus lyrata*)
- pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*)